

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NIAMEY 02056 031541Z

45

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03

USIA-06 SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00

FRB-03 PA-01 PRS-01 IO-10 /111 W
----- 033073

P R 031452Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0801

INFO AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NIAMEY 2056

E.O. 11652: NGDS

TAGS: ENRG, NG

SUBJECT: INDICATIONS OF OIL IN NIGER

1. CONFIRMING RUMORS WHICH HAVE BEEN CIRCULATING NIN NIAMEY FOR SEVERAL DAYS, PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED DISCOVERY OF OIL (LOCALISE DE PETROLE) IN NIGER. PRESIDENT MADE ANNOUNCEMENT WHICH GREETED WITH WARM APPLAUSE TO OPENING SESSION OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF NIGER AMBASSADORS ATTENDED BY MEMBERS OF SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL AND ENTIRE CABINET. KOUNTCHE MADE POINT TO MENTION EFFORTS, CAPITAL AND TECHNOLOGY OF TEXACO AND EXXON AND ACKNOWLEDGED COUNTRY'S DEBT TO THE TWO COMPANIES.

2. LOCAL TEXACO REP, BARRINGER (AMCIT), INFORMED EMBASSY TAHT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NIAMEY 02056 031541Z

COMPNAVY'S THIRD WELL LOCATED HALFWAY BETWEEN BILMA

AND NGUIGMI AND SLIGHTLY SOUTHWEST OF AGADEM IN THE COUNTRY'S DESERT HAD AT 5000 FT LEVEL YIELDED PROMISING EVIDENCE OF HYDROCARBONS ON MAY 29. ON MAY 31, VICE PRESIDENT SANI SIDO, ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF STAFF ALI SAIBOU, AND MINES DIRECTOR DIALLO OUMARA ACCOMPANIED BARRINGER TO SITE WHERE THEY WERE ABLE TO SEE THE HOPEFUL OILY MUD. BARRINGER CAUTIONED, HOWEVER, THAT WHILE INDICATIONS WERE GOOD, IT WAS PREMATURE TO QUOTE DECLARE AN OIL STRIKE UNQUOTE. DRILLING AT THE SITE WILL CONTINUE TO THE CONTRACTUAL 12,000 FEET AFTER WHICH FURTHER SAMPLINGS WILL BE MADE AT THE 5000 FOOT LEVEL. MEANWHILE, TEXACO CONTINUES WITH ITS FOURTH WELL IN MORE NORTHERLY SEGUIDINE CONCESSION.

3. FEARING POSSIBLE SOURING OF COMPANY--GON RELATIONS IN EVENT LITTLE FURTHER COMES OF THIS WELL OR THAT EVENTUAL DISCOVERIES WILL BE TOO SMALL TO EXPLOIT COMMERCIALY, BARRINGER IS DOWNPLAYING NEWS FROM DESERT. PRESIDENT HAS APPARENTLY TAKEN RISKY OPPOSITE COURSE GIVING RISE TO EXPECTATIONS WHICH MAY BE DIFFICULT TO MEET. LOCAL RADIO ALREADY EMPHASIZING DISCOVERY OF IMPORTANT PETROLEUM FIELD.HECK

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM, PETROLEUM INDUSTRY, EXPLORATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NIAMEY02056
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750193-0923
From: NIAMEY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750686/aaaadauj.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAY 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <09 DEC 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INDICATIONS OF OIL IN NIGER
TAGS: ENRG, NG, TEXACO, EXXON
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006